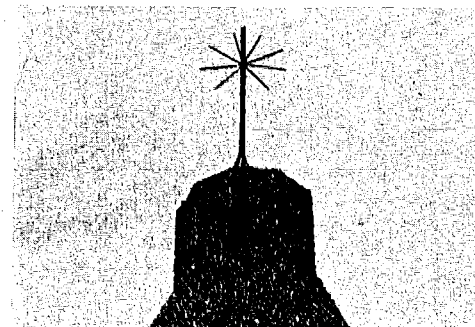


AUGUST 1967

THIS IS A
CALL TO PRAYER
FOR
THE LORD'S WORK
IN
COLOMBIA

COLOMBIAN NEWS

NUMBER FORTY-EIGHT

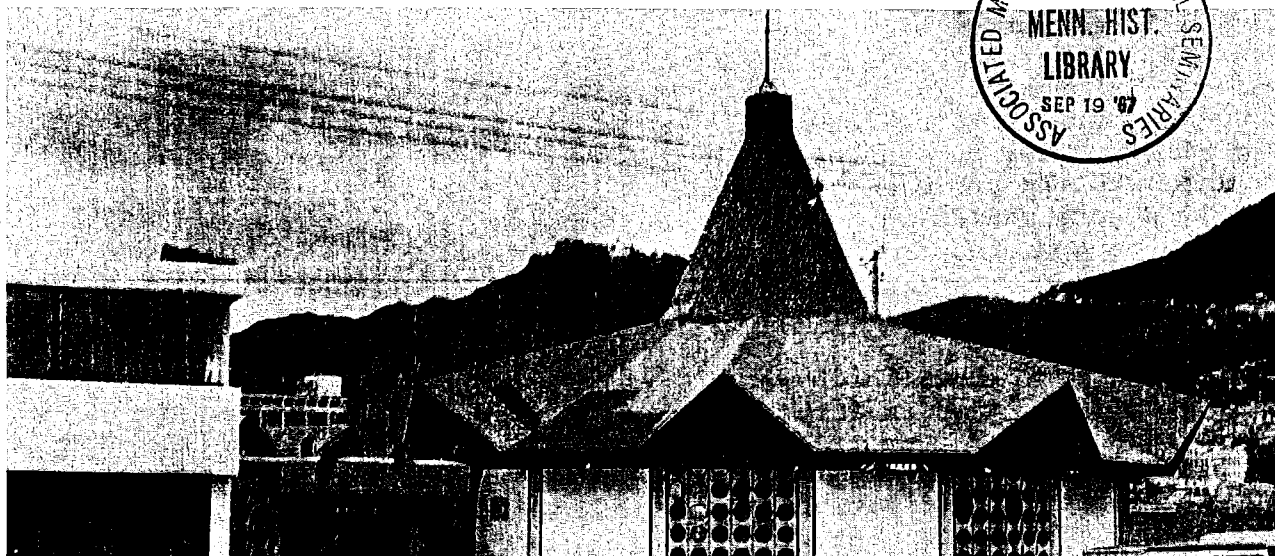


Cachipay, Cund., Colombia, S. A.

Proclaiming Christ in Bogota

INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE MENNONITE MISSION IN COLOMBIA

NEW BOGOTA CHURCH



DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Exactly three years from the founding of the First Mennonite Church of Bogota, over 425 persons were present on Sunday afternoon, May 28, to dedicate the new church sanctuary and Christian education facilities to the glory of God. Those in attendance were the members of the church, members of other evangelical churches of Bogota, many mission and national church leaders from various parts of Colombia, and several special guests and visitors from the United States.

The first service in the new church building was conducted on Friday evening, May 26. A sacred concert of music was presented by the Bogota church choir. During the concert the lights went out in the sector of the city in which the church is located. Over half the concert was sung by candlelight. On Saturday evening, May 27, a special service of praise and prayer was held for members of the church and several invited guests. Many members gave gratitude to God for the great privilege to dedicate the new church building. Following the period of personal testimonies, Rev. and Mrs. Gerald Stucky brought greetings to the congregation and expressed their appreciation for the work that had been accomplished in Bogota. As a fitting climax to the service of praise the first Holy Communion was conducted. All those present felt the oneness in Jesus Christ as they participated in the Lord's Supper as the family of God in their new house of worship.



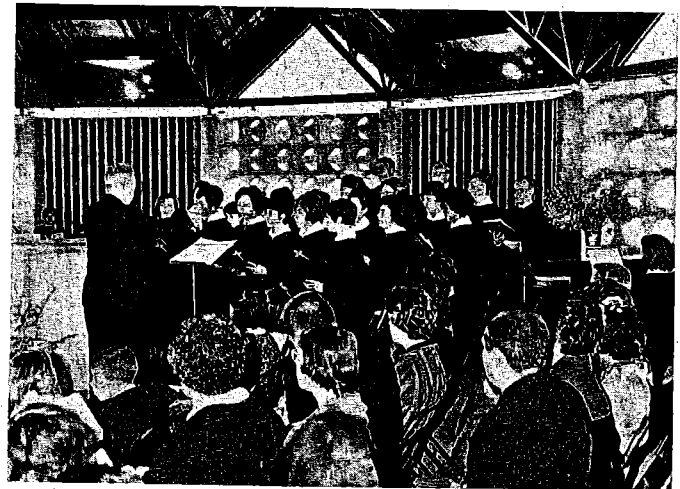
People Arriving for Dedication

The first Sunday worship service was held on May 28 at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Andrew Shelly, Executive Secretary of the Board of Missions, brought a message entitled, "These Stones: Their Twentieth Century Meaning."

Following the message the church received through baptism and re-affirmation of faith, eleven new members into the fellowship of the church. The membership of the Bogota church stands at forty-six.

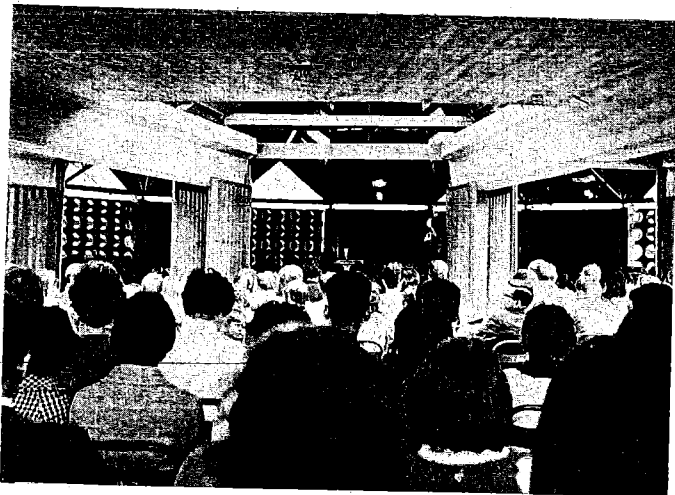
The large congregation began to gather early for the service of dedication scheduled for 2:30 p.m. The outdoor patio and the Sunday school rooms were utilized to seat the overflow crowd.

One highlight of the service of dedication was the music presented by the 24-voice choir of the Bogota church. Dr. Freeman Burkhalter, Minister of Music of the First Mennonite Church in Berne, Indiana, directed the choir. Mrs. Burkhalter and Mrs. Habegger accompanied the choir on the piano and organ. The Bogota church purchased a good secondhand Hammond organ for permanent use. The piano was borrowed from the Union Church of Bogota for the special occasion.



Choir Singing

The Bogota choir wore robes which were given by the Mennonite Church in Berne. The choir sang, "Sine Domine" during the first part of the dedication service and immediately following the litany of dedication they sang, "Hallelujah." The choir continues to sing each Sunday under the direction of Mrs. Habegger.



Stucky Preaching Dedication Message

The Bogota church invited Rev. Gerald Stucky, founder of the Mennonite Mission of Colombia, to preach the dedicatory message. Rev. and Mrs. Stucky were responsible for the early beginnings of the Bogota congregation. Over half of the present church members are graduates of the Colegio Americano in Cachipay where Stuckys served as directors for twenty years.

The interior of the sanctuary has not been completed because of lack of funds. The Bogota congregation has decided to complete details as funds are available. Thus the task of completing the physical building is a continual reminder to the congregation of the unfinished task of bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to the capital city of Bogota.

Mr. Luis Correa, deacon and member of the Building Committee, led the dedication service. Mr. Correa also interpreted both the morning message and the words of congratulations given by Rev. Andrew Shelly, representing the Board of Missions.

The Bogota church is deeply indebted to the Board of Missions for the economic aid given during the months of construction. Although the church received a special loan from the Church Extension Services, the Board of Missions gave a large grant to assist in the church building.

Several church leaders expressed to Rev. Shelly their thanks in the name of the church for the interest and help received by the Board of Missions and by the members of the General Conference Mennonite Church of North America.



Pastor Addresses Congregation

All those present were invited to share in a reception following the two hour dedication service. Several church members prepared coffee, tea, and cookies. It was a time of meeting new people and fellowshiping with members of other evangelical churches of Colombia.

May 28, 1967 is a day which will not soon be forgotten by the evangelical community of Bogota. Many church leaders expressed their desire that other evangelical congregations in Bogota and other areas of Colombia would follow the pattern of the Mennonite Church of Bogota in constructing church buildings which are well located and which speak symbolically by its architecture to the great truths of the Christian-Protestant faith and heritage. To God be the glory great things He has done!



Words of Congratulations

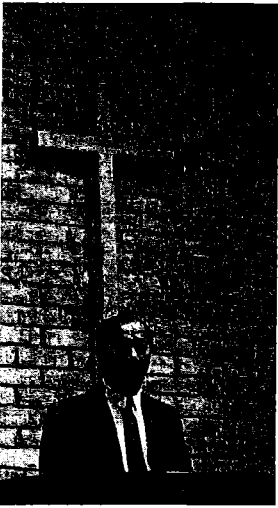
Rev. Howard Habegger, missionary-pastor, addressed the congregation with the words recorded in I Samuel 7:12: "Hitherto the Lord has helped us." The pastor thanked all those who had participated in the building program, especially the Building Committee who had spent countless hours in the direction of the construction.

The pastor stressed the fact that although the physical building was nearly completed, the task of the entire membership was to begin immediately to build the church, "the Body of Christ." The location of the new church gives the congregation a unique opportunity to reach middle-class Colombians with the Gospel.



Reception Being Prepared

15th CHURCH CONVENTION IN CACHIPAY



The 15th Convention of Mennonite Churches of Colombia met for four days in Cachipay considering together the two themes of witness of service. The first three days were devoted entirely to services of inspiration, Bible studies which centered in the book of I Corinthians, and discussion groups sharing some of the practical problems which the Colombian church faces in these days.

The Mennonite Convention was honored to have as their guest speaker, Dr. Jose Fajardo, preacher, evangelist, educator, and leader of the Protestant cause in Colombia for many years. Dr. Fajardo brought penetrating messages based on the problems which faced the church at Corinth.

The speaker also challenged the youth of the churches to consider their responsibilities as



Christian Colombians to witness and serve in their own country in the name of Jesus Christ

Opportunities for Christian service were presented by the director of the Wycliffe Bible Translators, and the World Vision organization with special emphasis on orphanage programs in Colombia. Dr. Fajardo also presented the new work of the Evangelical Association For Colombian Indians. This new organization will soon send missionaries and teachers into several of the Indian tribes in which the Wycliffe Translators are translating the Bible.



Small Groups Discuss Church Problems

After each Bible study, the entire assembly separated into five smaller discussion groups to consider the problems of the Colombian churches. The solutions offered by the Apostle Paul to the church at Corinth were applied to deal with present day church problems.

During the final day of the retreat seven new converts made public confessions of faith in Christ, were baptized and received into the membership of the Anolaima and La Mesa congregations.

The official business of the churches took place on the final day of the Convention with Rev. Jaime Caro presiding. It was reported that the Mennonite Churches had shown an increase in membership of 33% since the last Convention in 1966.

The new officers for 1967-1970 were elected by the delegates. Rev. Armande Hernandez, President; Pastor Jakob Dyck, Vice President; and Rev. Glendor Klaassen, Executive Secretary will serve for the next three years. The attendance of this year's Convention exceeded that of the previous year.



President Presides at Business Meeting



Laying on of Hands

The first ordination service ever witnessed in the La Mesa Church occurred on Sunday, April 30. Pastor Jaime Caro, who has served the congregation for nearly five years, was ordained to the ministry of the Christian gospel.

Rev. Eusebio Torres, pastor of the Christian Missionary and Alliance Church, delivered the ordination address, basing his remarks on Paul's advice to Timothy. Special music was provided by a trio from the Bogota church. Rev. Habegger conducted the service of ordination and the laying on of hands.

Rev. Caro and his wife plan to leave La Mesa at the end of this year to study at the United Seminary in Medellin.

PARAGUAYAN COUPLE PASTOR CACHIPAY CHURCH

Mr. and Mrs. Jakob Dyck, from the Fernheim and Neuland Colonies in Paraguay, arrived in Colombia during the month of June. Mr. Dyck is the new pastor of the Cachipay congregation. Jakob and Helly were officially installed as church workers on June 25 in the Cachipay church.

The new couple are both graduates of the Menonite Biblical Seminary in Montevideo, Uruguay. Although the Dycks are of German descent, they are completely fluent in the Spanish language.

For the congregation the Dycks represent the first couple that has served the church during the last four years. The Dycks intend to remain in Colombia for a two year term of service.



The Dycks of Paraguay

PROPERTY AVAILABLE TO IBAGUE CHURCH

The Ibague church has located an excellent property in the south part of the city which is for sale. Because the property is already surrounded with brick walls it could be utilized for outdoor worship services.

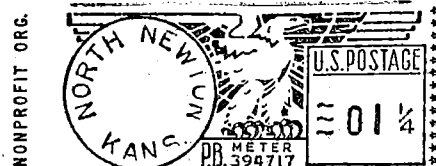
Rev. Hernandez is hopeful that a loan will be available in order that the property can be purchased. The garage-house in which the Ibague congregation now meets is completely inadequate because of the rapid growth of the church. The Ibague church is the fastest growing in terms of new members during the past year. The membership now numbers twenty-four.



Rev. Hernandez Discusses Ibague Situation

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SPECIAL GUESTS VISIT COLOMBIA



Stuckys-Shelly With Colombian Staff

Rev. Andrew Shelly and Rev. and Mrs. Gerald Stucky were present at special staff meetings of missionaries during the month of June. The return of the Stuckys for a period of several weeks was like "homecoming" since Gerald and Mary Hope had served for twenty years in Colombia. Rev. Shelly's presence represented his third visit to the Colombia field as the Executive Secretary of the Board of Missions.

Both Shelly and Stuckys visited the churches and the institutions. During the two days of meetings every aspect of the mission work was discussed and several important

steps were taken in planning for the future. Rev. Shelly expressed his appreciation for the work of the missionary and national workers and for the growth seen during the past three years since his previous visit. The mission staff was thankful for the help and encouragement given by Rev. Shelly and the Stuckys while in Colombia.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRAISE God for the improved health of George Ediger following hepatitis and tonsillectomy. PRAISE God for the addition of the John Wiebe family to the Colombian missionary staff. PRAY for the plans of the Anolaima church as they will soon begin their church building program. PRAY that North American Christians will respond to the financial needs of our Mission Board. Colombia along with other mission fields is not receiving field budgets. Your support is vital if the work of missions is to continue. THE COLOMBIA STAFF SUGGESTS THAT EVERY READER OF THE COLOMBIAN NEWS SEND A SPECIAL GIFT TO THE BOARD OF MISSIONS THIS MONTH!

Editors Note: It has been a privilege to serve as editor of the Colombian News for nearly the past three years. The August issue will mark the last one for which I will be responsible. I am happy to announce that the editorship of the next issues of the Colombian News will be the responsibility of Miss Bertha Mae Reiff, Mrs. Clair Harder, and Mrs. Margaret Ediger.

Sincerely, Howard J. Habegger